

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122724

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOU, APOU, ASEC, UR

SUBJECT:ACCESS TO AIRPORT TARMAC BY EMBASSY VEHICLE

REF: MOSCOW 10391

FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO, BONN FOR RCO

1. WE ARE INFORMING SOVIET EMBASSY THAT FOR MAY 16 AEROFLOT
FLIGHT, ACCESS TO DULLES AIRPORT TARMAC WILL BE LIMITED TO
ONE VEHICLE ON A ONE-TIME BASIS IN RETALIATION FOR THEIR
MAY 9 REFUSAL TO PERMIT TWO EMBASSY VEHICLES ACCESS TO
SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT.
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2. IN VIEW OF PAST AND CONTINUED DIFFICULTIES IN MOSCOW, WE
HAVE DISCUSSED WITH CUSTOMS AND FAA OFFICIALS NUMEROUS WAYS
TO ENFORCE RECIPROCITY AT DULLES. THEIR INTERNAL OPERATIONS
AND REGULATIONS UNFORTUNATELY PREVENT US FROM ESTABLISHING
A ROUTINE PROCEDURE THAT WILL CAUSE INCONVENIENCE TO
SOVIETS IN SAME MANNER AS THAT IMPOSED ON U.S. EMBASSY IN

MOSCOW. SOVIETS EITHER HAVE ACCESS OR THEY DON'T. WE CANNOT TURN IT OFF AND ON EASILY, NOR INTRODUCE A SYSTEM THAT WILL, IN THEIR VIEW, PUT CUSTOMS AND FAA PERSONNEL IN POSITION OF MAKING ON-THE-SPOT DECISIONS AND BEARING BRUNT OF PUBLIC CRITICISM IF INCIDENT SHOULD OCCUR. WHAT

WE CAN DO, HOWEVER, IS IF SOVIETS REFUSE US PLANESIDE ACCESS TO PICK UP OUR DIPLOMATIC POUCHES, DECLARE THE TARMAC AREA AT DULLES AIRPORT A CLOSED AREA TO SOVIET EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN SOVIET VEHICLES FOR REASONS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE FOR PERIOD OF TIME WHEN AEROFLOT FLIGHT ARRIVES. WE WOULD WELCOME THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THIS SUGGESTION.

3. IN REVIEWING OUR RECORDS ON POUCH PROCEDURES, IT APPEARS THAT PLANESIDE ACCESS WAS ESTABLISHED VIA AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES IN 1969 FOR UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES ARRIVING ONLY ON PAN AMERICAN AND AEROFLOT FLIGHTS. IS PRACTICE TO MEET COURIER-ACCOMPANIED POUCHES ON FOREIGN CARRIERS FROM VIENNA AN ADJUNCT OF 1969 AGREEMENT OR HAS NEW AGREEMENT BEEN MADE WITH SOVIETS FOR EMBASSY TO MEET COURIER-ACCOMPANIED FLIGHTS AS WELL AS PAN AMERICAN FLIGHTS? SINCE A MUCH SMALLER AMOUNT OF UNACCOMPANIED MATERIAL IS COMING VIA PAN AM, AND SINCE POUCHES ON AEROFLOT FLIGHTS ARE ESSENTIALLY ALL COURIER-ACCOMPANIED, IS NOW GOOD TIME TO ESTABLISH MORE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURE? DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH TO ROCK BOAT BUT CAN FORESEE MANY PROBLEMS AHEAD WITH INCREASED
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AMOUNTS OF CLASSIFIED ITEMS COMING IN FOR NEW PROJECT. WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION AND COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER.

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